

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A storage system for protecting data stored on a volume of said storage system comprising:

a storage media upon which said volume is represented;

a disk controller which controls said storage system; and

a write once read many (WORM) configuration table having a plurality of entries which indicate by use of a next write pointer which of a plurality of areas of said volume is write protected.

2. A storage system according to claim 1, wherein said entries indicate whether said volume is WORM enabled.

3. A storage system according to claim 1, wherein said entries indicate a size of each of said areas of said volume.

4. A storage system according to claim 1, wherein said entries indicate whether said volume is WORM enabled.

5. A storage system according to claim 1, wherein said areas are each a block of storage of said volume identifiable by a block number, and

Wherein the block numbers for said volume start at zero corresponding to a first storage location of said volume and increases in increments of one until the last storage location of said volume.

6. A storage system according to claim 5, wherein said next write pointer has a block number of a storage location at which data can be written, and

wherein said next write pointer indicates that data can not be written to blocks having a block number less than the block number of said next write pointer.

7. A storage system according to claim 1, wherein said entries indicate a retention period of each of said areas.

8. A storage system according to claim 1, further comprising:
an internal clock which is used to measure said retention period.

9. A storage system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a management console which allows for creating or deleting entries in said WORM configuration table.

10. A storage system according to claim 1, wherein said disk controller, in response to a write request from a host, checks if an offset specified by said write request is larger than an offset indicated by said next write pointer, sends, if said offset specified by said write request is not larger than said offset indicated by said next write pointer, an error message to said host.

11. A storage system for protecting data stored on a volume of said storage system comprising:

a storage media upon which said volume is represented;

a disk controller which controls said storage system; and

a write once read many (WORM) configuration table having a plurality of entries which indicate write protected areas of said volume each being defined by use of a beginning offset and an ending offset.

12. A storage system according to claim 1, wherein said volume includes a plurality of blocks at least one of which is included in each area,

wherein each block of said volume is identifiable by a block number, and

wherein the block numbers for said volume start at zero corresponding to a first storage location of said volume and increases in increments of one until the last storage location of said volume.

13. A storage system according to claim 12, wherein said beginning offset has a block number of a storage location at the beginning of a write

protected area and said ending offset has a block number of a storage location at the end of said write protected area, and

wherein data cannot be written in blocks corresponding to block numbers between said beginning and ending offsets.

14. A storage system according to claim 11, wherein said entries indicate a retention period of each of said areas.

15. A storage system according to claim 11, further comprising:
an internal clock which is used to measure said retention period.
16. A storage system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a management console which allows for creating or deleting entries in
said WORM configuration table.
17. A storage system according to claim 1, wherein said disk
controller, in response to a write request from a host, checks if an offset
specified by said write request is less than said beginning offset or greater
than said ending offset.